

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1 - 4, said claims having been variously rejected as follows.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, the examiner alleging, in substance, that the steps in Claim 3 called for in the claim are not steps for "transmitting the load" as called for in Claim 1. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 3 calls for additional steps, in addition to the step set out in Claim 1. Claims 1 and 3, when taken together, constitute a continuous method which begins with transporting the all-terrain vehicle in the bed of a pick-up truck, off loading the all-terrain vehicle; connecting the tow bar to the all-terrain vehicle; placing a load on top of the ramp; pulling the loaded ramp behind the all-terrain vehicle; removing the load from the ramp; loading the vehicle back into the pick-up by driving the all-terrain vehicle up the ramp; folding the loading ramp and stowing the folded ramp into the pick-up truck. As called for in Claims 1 and 3, this is a continuing process and the applicant fails to understand how Claim 3, as part of that continuing process, fails to comply with 35 USC 112. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 - 4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 based upon US Patent Number 4995129. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching or even a suggestion of towing the trailer 10 in the '129 Patent behind an all-terrain vehicle as called for in Claims 1, 2 and 3, and also by Claim 4 as currently amended. A careful reading of the '129 Patent to Comardo reveals that the '129 Patent is silent as to the vehicle to which the tow bar 80 and the hitch members 82 and 84 are to be connected. Claim 3, lines 10 -12 of the '129 specification speaks only of a "vehicle-used for towing." Claims 1 and 12 of the '129 Patent speak of "providing hitch means for connection to a tow vehicle." This could be, for example, a trailer hitch mounted on the back end of a pick-up truck. There is no additional disclosure support in the specification or the claims of the '129 Patent for any concept that the tow bar 80 can be connected to a trailer hitch on the back end of the all-terrain vehicle.

The all-terrain vehicle and the trailer assembly according to the present invention are intended for terrains not normally traversed even by pick-up trucks by having the all-terrain vehicle tow the trailer as called for in Claims 1 - 4. The hunter, such as a deer hunter, can go off in the bushes and over the hills and tow back the game, deer, elk or wild hogs on the trailer, pulled by the all-terrain vehicle. There is no suggestion in the '129 patent of being able to accomplish these fetes.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 1 - 4, as amended, clearly distinguish over US Patent Number 4995129 to Comardo.

The applicant submitted formal drawings in this application which were received by the USPTO on February 9, 2004, but the present Office Action provides no indication as to whether such drawings have been accepted by the Office. It would be appreciated if the next Office Action could provide such an indication.

The undersigned counsel would welcome appreciate a teleconference with the examiner should there be any unresolved issues remaining in the application, at telephone number 713-355-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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